



Date: 13/08/2026
Our ref: 01/FOI/26/017276/V

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/26/017276/V

I write in connection with your request for information dated 20/07/2026, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

Please provide copies of any current policies, procedures, guidance, standard operating procedures, checklists, training materials, decision-making frameworks or internal guidance used by your force in relation to sudden or unexpected death, apparent suicide and domestic abuse-context deaths.

For clarity, this request concerns policies and procedures, not personal data about any individual case.

Please provide information relating to the following areas:

1. Sudden death / apparent suicide policies

Please provide any current policy, procedure, standard operating procedure or guidance concerning sudden unexpected death, unexplained death, apparent suicide, suspected suicide, or death where no crime is initially apparent.

2. Domestic abuse and coercive-control trigger screening

Please provide any policy or guidance requiring officers or staff to consider domestic abuse, coercive control, stalking, harassment, recent separation, recent relationship conflict, family/friend concern, prior domestic abuse call-outs, partner/ex-partner involvement, or partner/ex-partner as finder in a sudden death or apparent suicide investigation.

3. Provisional classification where domestic abuse may be relevant

Please provide any policy or guidance stating whether an apparent suicide or non-suspicious death classification should remain provisional where domestic abuse, coercive control, stalking, harassment, digital abuse, family concern or prior police contact may be relevant.

4. First response, scene preservation and contemporaneous accounts

Please provide any policy or guidance concerning first response, golden-hour investigation, scene preservation, witness separation, decision logs, body-worn video, supervisory review,

and taking contemporaneous accounts at the scene and at the time, including from the person who found the deceased, attending officers and relevant witnesses.

5. Digital evidence

Please provide any policy or guidance concerning the seizure, preservation, download, retention, examination or release of digital devices and digital data in sudden death or apparent suicide cases, including phones, secondary phones, laptops, tablets, cloud accounts, social media, messages, call logs, search history and other digital material where domestic abuse or coercive control may be relevant.

6. Family liaison, bereavement communication and death notification

Please provide any policy or guidance on family liaison, family contact, bereavement communication or death notification in sudden death, apparent suicide or domestic abuse-context deaths.

In particular, please confirm whether force policy allows, requires, restricts or prevents allocation of a Family Liaison Officer, specialist family contact officer, or bereavement-trained officer/practitioner where a death is classified as apparent suicide but domestic abuse, coercive control or family concern may be relevant.

Please also provide any guidance on who should deliver a death notification to family members, including whether this should be undertaken by someone with specialist training or competence in bereavement-sensitive communication.

7. Next of kin, family contact and coronial status

Please provide any policy or guidance distinguishing between next of kin, family contact, informant, suspect/person of interest, and Interested Person status in sudden death, apparent suicide or coronial processes.

8. Domestic Homicide Review / Domestic Abuse Related Death Review / suspected victim suicide following domestic abuse

Please provide any policy, guidance or referral criteria concerning Domestic Homicide Reviews, Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews, suspected victim suicide following domestic abuse, or deaths where domestic abuse may have contributed to apparent suicide.

9. Audit, review and learning

Please confirm whether your force has conducted any audit, thematic review, learning exercise or internal review in the last five years concerning sudden deaths or apparent suicides later identified as involving domestic abuse, coercive control, stalking, harassment or suspected victim suicide following domestic abuse.

If such an audit or review exists, please provide the report, findings, learning summary or recommendations, with redactions where necessary.

Result of Searches

Following receipt of your request searches were conducted within Greater Manchester Police (GMP) to locate the requested information and I can confirm the information requested is held by GMP. However, I am not obliged to supply you with all the information as an exemption applies.

The information requested exempt under **Section 14(1) - Vexatious Requests.**

The Freedom of Information Act is a piece of legislation designed to give the public access to information held by public authorities. It exists to make the decisions of those authorities transparent and to keep the public better informed regarding matters which affect them.

A public authority can refuse requests which can divert resources away from more deserving requests and other public business or threaten to undermine the credibility of the freedom of

information system. It is recognised that dealing with unreasonable requests can place a strain on resources and get in the way of delivering mainstream services.

When identifying potentially vexatious requests the indicators contained within the Information Commissioner's guidance on Section 14(1) should be considered. In this case we feel the following indicator applies to your request: **Burden on the Authority.** [How do we consider burden, motive and harassment? | ICO](#)

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 14(1) of FOIA a request deemed as overly burdensome does not oblige GMP to comply with a request for information. The ICO confirms within their guidance that they consider there to be a high threshold for refusing a request on such grounds if there is a viable case in line with the below recommendations:

- 1) The requester has asked for a substantial volume of information and
- 2) The authority has real concerns about potentially exempt information, which it will be able to substantiate if asked to do so by the ICO and
- 3) Any potentially exempt information cannot easily be isolated because it is scattered throughout the requested material.

As such, your request is being refused due to the amount of time required to review and prepare the information for disclosure, which would impose a grossly oppressive burden on GMP. To provide the data requested in question 6 of your request would involve manual review and redactions to the modus operandi of each crime within the scope of your request so they do not contain operationally sensitive and personal information which could identify directly or indirectly a living human therefore Section 31(1)(a)(b) Law Enforcement and Section 40(2) Personal Information will be engaged as this represents information that identifies a living individual, to disclose this information would breach the principles of the GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018. Personal data is defined by Article 4 of the GDPR and Part 1 of the Data Protection Act 2018 and means any information relating to an identified or identifiable natural person ('data subject'). An identified natural person is one who can be identified directly or indirectly from that data.

Initial searches with GMP's Strategy and Policy Team have identified 9 separate policies that are within the scope of your request. These policies contain personal information of GMP officers and staff, which would be exempt under Section 40(2) of the Freedom of Information Act, as well as operationally sensitive tactical policing information, which would be exempt under Section 31(1)(a)(b) of the Act. These policies would have to be manually reviewed and redacted in consultation with the policy authors. Further consultation would be needed with GMP's Family Liaison Officers and Coronial Officers, which will further increase the time needed to complete this request. The time taken to review and redact these documents would cause a grossly oppressive burden on GMP.